

# PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base

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## Reunions highlight mission to Al-Udeid

Article and photo

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -** Reunions with Westover aerial porters at a Qatari air base, two loadmaster brothers, and with a former Westover C-5 pilot who flew back with some of his former crew members, marked a March airlift mission down range.

A 337th Airlift Squadron crew delivered 39 tons of supplies to Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar on March 19, flying more than 2,500 miles from Ramstein to one of the most strategically important Air Force bases near Iraq.

The Operation Iraqi Freedom channel mission, led by Lt. Col. Michael W. Davis, aircraft commander, delivered pallets, ammunition, and more to Al-Udeid. Colonel Davis and various other aircraft commanders are at the helm of channel missions that cross the globe regularly from Westover.

Colonel Davis and Capt. Joseph R. Freitas, pilot, guided the Air Force's biggest aircraft to what seemed very small from the air – the flickering runway lights at Al-Udeid, where thousands of Airmen, including those from the Patriot Wing's 58th Aerial Port Squadron, are deployed.

At one-half mile from the runway at Al-Udeid, the crew lit up the C-5 for the final approach. The lights-out operation is a standard procedure in a combat zone. The heat from the C-5 lights makes the aircraft vulnerable to surface-to-air missiles, Colonel Davis said.

Flashing lights of a "follow-me" vehicle framed the pitch darkness outside in front of the C-5 as the pilots taxied off the runway. Once at the parking spot, MSgt. Donald D. DeVincenzo and TSgt. David M. Benson, loadmasters, peered out into the darkness from the C-5's massive cargo compartment. Soon, the distant glare of a parade of head-



**LONG DAY –** Loadmasters with the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, assisted by aerial port workers, unload an outsized storage container from a Westover C-5 March 19 at Ramstein AB, Germany. The Westover aircrew had just completed a round trip of more than 5,000 miles from Ramstein to Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

**Other articles and photos on this mission and with deployed members of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron are on Pages 6 and 7.**

lights drew closer.

Meanwhile, the loadmasters prepared the cargo for offloading, but not before everyone paused to cover their ears. A pair of F-16s roared past from the nearby runway. The glow of afterburners followed the jets straight up into the air as the fighters soared

into the dark and were gone within mere seconds.

Minutes later, C-130 Hercules transports rumbled past and took off into the night. The 24-hour pulse of being down range includes a flying schedule that operates day  
**see AL-UDEID continued on Page 4**

**439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.**

# Leadership process rolls on

Last month we retired two of the wing's leaders, Cols. Tom Mauzaka and Charles Brown. Between them they had over 60 years of service and experience. As I conducted their ceremonies and bid them farewell, several things came to mind that I thought I should share with you.

First: the values that these two officers represent and lived by.

I can tell you that in my 30 years as an officer, I have seen very few who come close to their level of hard work and dedication. The results of their work were very evident in the wing's successful effort during Operations

## Commentary

Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and the corresponding activations and increased operations tempo. Their

leadership played a key role in making things happen.

Also, I believe anyone who knows them can attest to their integrity and dedication to flag and country. In other words, they epitomized the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

My next thought was how am I ever going to replace them? Of course I quickly realized that this wing is made up of many quality people who will fill in the gap. However, it got me thinking about all you young troops out there and how Colonels Brown, Mauzaka, and I were young once as well.

I recalled how I never thought I would be in the kind of job I'm in now, so I didn't need to do anything to prepare. Fortunately, I received some good "guidance" and did what I needed to do to prepare for the leadership jobs I have held. I have two reasons for sharing this with you.

First, as a young officer or Airman, always do the things that prepare you for the next level and beyond. You never know when opportunity will knock. Second, we need for you older troops to be mentors. Set the example in dress, behavior and job performance. Train and prepare the next generation to step into your shoes so that someone is ready to do your job when you retire or move on.

This wing has a long history of superior performance and accomplishments. We can only maintain this level of performance by sticking to the core values and by training and mentoring the Airmen who will lead this wing in the future. I'm sure the 439<sup>th</sup> is up to the challenge!

by Col. Wade Farris  
439th Airlift Wing commander



## Briefs

### Meals now served at Westover Club on UTAs

The Westover Club will handle all A and B UTA meals until the dining facility reopens.

Meal hours at the club are:

Saturdays: breakfast, 6-7:30 a.m.; lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; dinner, 5-7 p.m.; Sundays: breakfast, 5:30-6:45 a.m.; lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; dinner, 5-7 p.m.

For more information, call MSgt. Gary McNab at Ext. 2417.

### Golf Scramble set for May 14 in South Hadley

The 11th Annual Air Force Association Spring Golf Scramble will tee off on May 14.

The scramble will be held at the Ledges Golf Club in South Hadley, Mass. Those interested must sign up by May 7. A \$65 entry fee includes 18 holes, cart, lunch, and a catered dinner.

For more information, call Sue Alexander at Ext. 2851.

### Air Force Personnel Center has new web site

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** - Civilian appropriated-fund employees and prospective applicants can now get answers to questions about employment opportunities, benefits and entitlements and more online at the Air Force's Customer Service Center.

The web site address is <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst/>

### Public affairs NCO wins Air Force contest award

TSgt. Andrew S. Biscoe, 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, took a first place prize in the Air Force Media Contest for a stand-alone photo printed on the cover of the August 2003 issue of the Patriot.

Other Air Force Reserve Command first place finishes went to the Gulf Wing of the 403rd Wing at Keesler AFB, Miss.; the Associate Press of the 446<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at McChord AFB, Wash. and SSgt. Jason Schaap of the 931<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Group, McConnell AFB, Kan.

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# Wing Intel charts best shop in command

by MSgt. Tom Allocco  
and TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover's intelligence specialists have been recognized as composing the Best reserve Intel shop in Air Mobility Command during a year crowded with wartime activity here and abroad.

Wing Intelligence of the 439th OSS earned the top honors for activities throughout 2003 that included intelligence support during the Operation Iraqi Freedom surge when Westover was the busiest C-5 base in the world.

The Intel shop also deployed members to Iraq and Kyrgyzstan to provided intelligence support during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Maj. Michael A. Buoniconti and MSgt. Jeffrey D. Knight, together with Patriot Wing members of the 439th ALCF and 439th SFS, were among the first troops to open up Baghdad International Airport, not long after the old Saddam Hussein International Airport signs were torn down. The intelligence specialists stood up an intelligence shop at the airport under combat conditions.

Capt Peter J. Holmsten served at Manas, Kyrgyzstan where they delivered intelligence to aircrews providing combat air support and airlift for forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Most members of the Intel shop were activated immediately following the 9/11 Attacks on America and continued to serve on active duty until last February.

The Westover intelligence specialists provided more than 200 pre-mission aircrew briefings and debriefings to C-5 aircrews conducting global operations in 2003. They conducted more than 50 deployment briefings and debriefings to more than 300 Westover members deploying to and returning from the AOR.

The job included updating deploying aircrews, medical, maintenance and security forces on developing threat conditions and cultural awareness in the Enduring and Iraqi Freedom AOR.

During the year, Westover's intelligence specialists conducted Crisis Action Team intelligence briefings for the wing commander and senior staff. They worked with the 439th Security Forces



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Six members of the 439th Airlift Wing Intelligence staff discuss a map's specifications during a recent briefing. They are, from left, SSgt. Therese E. Finneran, TSgt. Joseph R. Russo, MSgt. Jeffrey D. Knight, Maj. Michael A. Buoniconti, CMSgt. Lawrence N. Milliken, and SSgt. John S. Rossi.

Squadron and 439th Office of Special Investigations to assess the local threat help assure force protection.

Major Buoniconti attributed the intelligence specialists' success to a Super Bowl attitude among everyone, reinforced by a strong NCO corps. "We have a strong team culture and a collective desire to be the best at what we do. Within our four walls, it's all about team. We deliver and win as a team," he said.

Lt. Col. Christopher Donovan is reserve intelligence commander. Lt. Col. Patricia Evans served as acting commander during the activation until February, 2003, when she assumed command of the 439th OSS. Major Buoniconti succeeded her as acting com-

see INTEL continued on Page 8

## ALCF sweeps command awards for 2003

The 439th Airlift Control Flight hauled in the honors in all five categories of the Mobile Command and Control Awards for 2003, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command officials announced April 6.

The ALCF members won the following:

- \* AFRC Airlift Control Flight Unit of the Year Award for 2003

- \* Maj. Vanessa J. Dornhoefer, AFRC Airlift Control Flight Operations Officer of the Year

- \* MSgt. David N. Brainard, the AFRC Airlift Control Flight Communications Specialist of the Year

- \* MSgt. Thomas M. O'Brien, AFRC Airlift Control Flight Loadmaster of the Year

- \* TSgt. Eileen E. Moloney-Cook, AFRC Airlift Control Flight Command and Control Specialist of the Year award for 2003

Members of the 439th ALCF were called to active duty to support Operation Iraqi Freedom at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. The unit was the first and only AFRC

### Major Kreig takes command of ALCF

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Maj. Christopher D. Kreig assumed command of the 439th Airlift Control Flight (ALCF) during a ceremony April 4 at the conference center.

A 17-year veteran of active duty and the reserve, Major Kreig first joined the 439th ALCF in October 1998. He most recently was the flight's operations officer. A former B-52 navigator who flew Cold War missions from Loring AFB, Me., and Grand Forks AFB, N.D., Major Kreig is a qualified tanker airlift control center commander.

Despite a background rich in opportunities and challenges, Major Kreig says this assignment is one he didn't foresee when first joining the Air Force.

"If anybody had told me when I was a second lieutenant that I would be a commander, I would have laughed at



Major Kreig

see ALCF continued on Page 9

Tanker Airlift Control Element in Iraq during the war. The unit's efforts to transition the area from a combat bare base to a sustainment operations paid off big dividends as the airport became the largest Middle East hub during the war, AFRC officials said.

The unit handled over 2,000 wartime missions, moving more than 9.4 million pounds of war material and almost 25,000 warfighters, while maintaining an astounding 99 percent mission reliability rate. The

see AWARDS continued on Page 4

# Sexual assault response review team visits base

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

A team from Air Force Reserve Command visited Westover March 23 to review the Patriot Wing's sexual assault response program. The visit was part of an Air Force directive for all major commands to assess their bases to search for best practices and potential changes to policy.

Led by Brig. Gen. Charles D. Ethredge, commander of the 403rd Wing at Keesler AFB, Miss., the AFRC assessment team is one of two teams trained to conduct reviews of base sexual assault response programs and report back to headquarters.



**General Ethredge**

In March, the two teams – each led by a one-star general who is also a wing commander – traveled to 10 air reserve installations, including Westover, and interviewed host and tenant units. In addition, the teams interviewed AFRC units located on active component bases through teleconferences with each unit's senior leaders.

"The Air Force and the Air Force Re-

serve have zero tolerance for sexual assault," said Col. Robert E. Bailey, AFRC inspector general. "Our focus is preventing these crimes from occurring, caring for the victims, and properly addressing allegations of sexual assault."

**Colonel Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, echoed that sentiment saying, "Sexual assault and harassment is inconsistent with the policies, values and standards of this wing, the Air Force and the military as a whole. We fully subscribe to 'zero tolerance' at Westover."**

The secretary of the Air Force and chief of staff directed the assessment teams to look into four major areas — education and training, reporting, response and oversight processes. AFRC added two assessment areas: (1) support and resources available to reservists assigned to installations where AFRC is not the host, and (2) AFRC resources provided to joint service tenants on AFRC installations.

Due to the unique status and jurisdictional challenges of reserve components, Colonel Bailey said it is vital to get reserve input into the overall Air Force assessment.

The results of the assessment will be used to share excellent programs and identify potential improvements across the Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command. Today, AFRC has about 75,800 reservists

who train and deploy regularly. Of that number, more than 23 percent are women.

During their visits, the team met with commanders, first sergeants, support staffs and reservists themselves. Hearing people describe their experiences at home base, training and deployment locations will help the teams understand how AFRC takes care of Airmen.

The full report from AFRC was to be completed and submitted, along with the other Air Force major commands, to the Air Force chief of staff by early April. In addition to the assessment teams, the Air Force has established an integrated process team to address sexual assault response issues.

The defense department's toll-free telephone number for individuals who want to contact or provide information to the task force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault is (800) 497-6261. The task force is staffed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.

"The U.S. military is the most respected institution in the nation," said Colonel Bailey. "We owe it to the citizens of this nation to ensure that their sons and daughters, who volunteer to serve, live and perform their missions in a safe environment."

**(AFRC News Service contributed to this article)**

## AL-UDEID continued from Page 1

and night at Al-Udeid.

The Westover crew had now logged the third leg of their globe-spanning mission. More than 6,000 miles of flying began at Westover, then to Dover AFB, Del., Ramstein, and Al-Udeid.

Like Dover and Ramstein, aerial port workers were soon at the C-5, driving their K-loader cargo platforms under the C-5's rear cargo doors. The Galaxy's six-story high tail dwarfed everything around it. TSgt. Marvin P. Dotson, 58th APS, drove one of the K-loaders. He immediately spotted the Westover crew and responded with smiles and handshakes.

Another reunion took place inside the cargo compartment. MSgt. Andrew J. Dupuis, 337th flight engineer and the crew

recognized Maj. Sean Regan despite his tan from months of desert duty. The major was a passenger for the flight back home. He was a C-5 pilot at Westover from 1999 to 2003 until he joined an active-duty C-5 squadron at Dover. He spent several months at Al-Udeid deployed as chief of the airlift control center.

The sun rose at Al-Udeid as the aerial porters and loadmasters completed the cargo load. On board for the haul back to Ramstein was 110,000 pounds of supplies, including a pickup truck, rolling stock, and an oversized storage container.

When the aircraft lifted off from the Al-Udeid runway at 7 a.m. the morning of March 19, it weighed 700,000 pounds.

A third reunion took place while the

337th members settled in for crew rest in billeting at Ramstein. Sergeant Benson just happened to be put up across the hall from his older brother, MSgt. Paul Benson, who is also a 337th loadmaster.

The brothers' missions intersected at Ramstein. One was on its way back home, while the older Benson brother's was mid-way to Kyrgyzstan in eastern central Asia.

The crew returned to Westover on March 20 from Ramstein after a stop at Dover. Thirty-three hours of flying and 155 tons of cargo hauled later, Westover maintainers secured the chocks as the C-5's engines faded into an idle and shut down, signaling the end of another Patriot Wing mission accomplished.

## AWARDS continued from Page 3

unit hosted many dignitaries while at their deployed location. These visitors recognized the outstanding job being accomplished by the 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF and they soon became known as the 'Baghdad TALCE.'

Major Dornhoefer was the TALCE operations officer for night shift operations while deployed in Baghdad. She was responsible for handling all airlift issues, numerous attack responses, several intense in-flight emergencies and countless security issues which she handled flawlessly with her excellent leadership skills. Sergeant Brainard is credited with establishing initial communications at Baghdad International Airport between the TALCE, the Army V

Corps and other coalition forces.

Sergeant O'Brien's loadmaster skills were put to the test during his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He routinely conducted ground operations on the ramp at Baghdad International Airport in a hostile and austere environment.

Sergeant Moloney-Cook provided critical and timely command and control support during her deployment to Baghdad. Sergeant Moloney-Cook worked many command and control issues to include the emergency response for a C-130 in-flight fire and the first confirmed missile launch on a coalition aircraft, command officials said.





**VIEW FROM THE SLOT** - This photo is from the slot pilot's cockpit during one of the maneuvers performed by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds will headline Westover's Great New England Air Show scheduled for Aug. 14-15. The performance is part of an extensive schedule of aerial and ground displays planned across Westover's flight line. This will be the first air show held at the base since 2000. The theme for this year's event is "Salute to the Citizen Soldier." For more information on the two-day air show, visit [www.greatnewenglandairshow.com](http://www.greatnewenglandairshow.com)

## Aerial porters load up for consecutive deployments

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Their latest deployment resembled last year's surge at Westover – except for one very human difference.

This time, members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron deployed to Dover AFB, Del., helped unload the remains of soldiers killed in Iraq. Dover houses the military's East Coast mortuary.

Twenty-four 42<sup>nd</sup> APS people deployed in January to Dover for 30 days to augment the huge aerial port operation there. While the mid-winter visit reminded the aerial porters of their work during last year's surge at Westover, the offloading of the flag-draped caskets distinguished this deployment from all others. The aerial porters coordinated with Dover Honor Guard members to make sure each casket met a reception with the utmost in military bearing and dignity as soon as the aircraft landed.

"It was very moving," said MSgt. James P. Garrity, who handled load planning during his assignment at Dover. "We had 10 remains come in one night at 3 a.m."

Sergeant Garrity, like the rest of the Westover reservists, worked 12-hour days. The Dover aerial port, the busiest in the Air Force, demanded a 24-hour a day, seven

day per week manning.

They handled C-5s, C-17s, C-130s and Civil Reserve Air Fleet 747s. Sergeant Garrity said that in their 30-day deployment, the reservists processed 3,250 passengers and more than 9,000 tons of cargo.

The aerial porters, fresh from the busy tempo of four months spent in Uzbekistan, were ready to keep up the momentum, said SMSgt. Albert Hayford, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 42<sup>nd</sup> group. "We were geared up, and the mission came up we we're ready to rock 'n' roll."

TSgt. Kevin R. Nee was the senior controller in the air terminal operations center (ATOC) at Dover. Sergeant Nee applied his 20 years of reserve and active-duty service to his job at Dover, and at least one of his co-workers said it was put to good use.

"He stepped in a seamlessly ran the ATOC," Sergeant Garrity said.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> APS sergeants said that no matter how busy the tempo spun up, it was the aircraft carrying the human remains home that left them with memories of a different deployed experience.

"It was a big deal," Sergeant Nee said. "We usually knew a couple of days in advance, so we'd be ready."

## Reservists required to register employer information

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Beginning March 31, all reservists were required to register information about their civilian employer and job skills for a Department of Defense database.

Called the Civilian Employment Information (CEI) program, the database information will help DOD better assess mobilization impact across the services.

"This program will make it possible for defense officials, including those responsible for mobilizing our traditional Guard and Reserve members, to know who can be called up for active duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country," said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The mandatory disclosure helps DOD comply with three requirements defined in law:

- give consideration to civilian employment necessary to maintain national health,

safety and interest when considering members for recall

- ensure that members with critical civilian skills are not retained in numbers beyond those needed for those skills

- inform reservists' employers of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act

Air Force Reserve members can enter their data on a new Defense Manpower Data Center web site at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>.

The information could be another tool to help determine which units or members of the Ready Reserve should be mobilized, defense officials said. Information about full-time employers also would make it possible to enhance employer support for the Guard and Reserve, officials said.

Any member of the Ready Reserve who knowingly fails or refuses to provide false employment information may be subject to

administrative action or punishment for dereliction of duty under Article 92, Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

"I think this program is a positive reflection of DoD's concern for the impact of mobilizations on activated reservists' civilian careers," said Maj. Lawrence K. Josiah, deputy staff judge advocate for the 439<sup>th</sup> AW Legal Office. "During the past two to three years, there were numerous legal as well as morale issues regarding activated reservists and their employers. Although many employers provided support to their activated reservists, there is a continuing need for education."

According to CEI officials, participation in the CEI program does not violate the Privacy Act. Also, no employer of a reservist to be mobilized would be contacted without the consent of the reservist. **(Armed Forces Print News contributed to this article)**

# 337th teamwork rounds out mission success

Article and photos

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** – They fly around the world for free.

As good as that sounds, the members of the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron are on no joy ride. They pay a physical price: long hours, hard work, and varying time zones across the world. The fliers sustain their stamina through getting enough rest in flight after they have finished their work. Sleep is precious during the intense pace of any mission.

TSgt. David M. Benson has developed his own strategy for making sure he is rested and ready.

"I'll go lie down and sit there and not fall asleep right away, but I'll keep trying," he said. He is a C-5 loadmaster from Indian Orchard, Mass. "You have to stay two steps ahead of this aircraft." He has been flying in C-5s for 10 years.

Sergeant Benson and the 337<sup>th</sup> members routinely soar over most of the globe during their missions. Long hours are not uncommon while operating the Air Force's largest and one of its most complicated aircraft.

"This job is about endurance," said MSgt. Gregory A. Baker. "It's not uncommon for us to fly 20-plus hours in one day."

Each C-5 crew consists of pilots, loadmasters, and flight engineers. Loadmasters team up with the other crew members to ensure the thousands of pounds of cargo is placed correctly in the cavernous cargo area of the Galaxy.

Sergeant Benson is often the first face that aerial porters see when they drive their huge K-loader moving platforms up to the jet to load or unload it. While the cargo is rolled onto the aircraft, Sergeant Benson and



**ALL ABOARD** - TSgt. David M. Benson, 337th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, pushes a cargo pallet aboard the C-5 at Dover AFB, Del. Sergeant Benson flew the Operation Iraqi Freedom channel mission that began from Westover on March 16. The mission's first leg took the crew from Westover to Dover.

the other loadmasters constantly talk with each other. They use Palm Pilot calculators to get a precise figure on the cargo weight for the pilots and flight engineers.

Sergeant Baker is a flight engineer who has flown in C-5s for 15 years. Flight engineers are the only enlisted crew members on the flight deck. Like the pilots, they monitor an array of dials and gauges that track every system on the C-5. Flight engineers assist the pilots with checklists. They assess the weight of the aircraft, and make sure all of its systems are working safely and efficiently.

For the long trans-Atlantic hop from Dover to Ramstein, Sergeant Baker caught a few hours of sleep before he took over for TSgt. Steven Bryant. As an example, on one day during the mission, nearly 20 hours had passed until the 337th members could go into crew rest at Ramstein. The aircrew had flown from the United States to Germany and then on to Qatar. They crossed through three different time zones.

Another flight engineer, MSgt. Andrew J. Dupuis of Winchendon, Mass., evaluated Sergeant Bryant for a check ride. This ensured Sergeant Bryant's skills were proficient.

Everyone bears responsibility for the safe operation of the C-5. Because of the sheer size of the airlifter, the crew members constantly check with each other on everything from the fuel load, to cargo, to the



**FINAL CHECK** - TSgt. Steven J. Bryant, 337th AS flight engineer, completes his final walk-around inspection of the C-5 at Ramstein AB. Flight engineers are the only enlisted members who work on the flight deck.

number of passengers in the upper compartment. The C-5's upper deck has 73 seats above the cargo deck.

When it comes to numbers and cargo volume, the C-5 leads the way. Its enormous fuel capacity allowed for this mission's first leg to include 44 tons of cargo to go aboard the aircraft at Dover. The C-5 weighed  
**see MISSION continued on Page 7**



**CRUISING ALONG** - Capt. Gregg R. Southworth takes his turn at the yoke on the recent Iraqi Freedom mission. He was one of three C-5 pilots on the five-day channel mission.



## 337th AS aircrew for OIF mission for March 16-20 were:

**Aircraft commander:** Lt. Col. Michael W. Davis

**Pilots:** Capts. Gregg R. Southworth and Joseph R. Freitas

**Flight engineers:** MSgts. Gregory A. Baker and Andrew J. Dupuis, TSgt. Steven J. Bryant

**Loadmasters:** MSgt. Donald D. DeVincenzo; TSgts. David M. Benson, David A. McKemie, and Ava Swedock

**Distance covered:** About 14,000 miles

**Hours flown:** 33

**Tonnage of cargo hauled:** 155

**Mission route:** Westover to Dover AFB, Del., then to Ramstein AB, Germany, and to Al-Udeid AB, Qatar (return route in reverse).

### MISSION continued from Page 6

690,000 pounds as Colonel Davis and his crew got it airborne from the Delaware base. With 220,000 pounds of fuel, the aircraft flew non-stop to Ramstein, without any need for tanker support along the way.

Teamwork and camaraderie are absolute musts for 337<sup>th</sup> aircrews. Crew members constantly talk about their jobs with each other. They trade past experiences. "Shop talk" conversations sometimes evolve into informal training sessions.

"It's very important that everyone is working together so we get an on-time take-off," said Sergeant DeVincenzo, from Dedham, Mass.

"It's all about data. Nobody wants a late takeoff," Sergeant Benson said, as he ran his fingers over a Palm Pilot, quickly entering numbers from the huge cargo load carefully positioned on the first "floor" of the C-5.

When crew members mention what it takes to handle a worldwide mission, they have one reminder: "You gotta be tough to fly the heavies."



**TIED DOWN** - TSgt. Ava Swedock, 337th AS loadmaster, ties down cargo in the C-5 on March 16 at Dover AFB, Del. Sergeant Swedock, from South Windsor, Conn., has flown in C-5s for eight years. Loadmasters ensure that cargo put aboard the C-5 is secured and balanced correctly for flight.

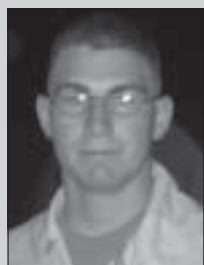
## Al-Udeid tempo keeps 58<sup>th</sup> aerial porters hauling

**Article and photos**  
by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

**AL-UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar** – Twenty-five Patriot Wing aerial porters are working 12-hour shifts as they try to keep up with the intense operations pace at this vital Air Force base set in the Qatari desert.

The deployed members of the 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron are assigned to a makeshift operations center constructed in a reinforced tent. Concertina wire, bright lights, the flat landscape of the Qatari desert, and the thunder of aircraft are all that surround them. The center is crammed with laptop and desktop computers. Clocks display the times and temperatures in Qatar and back home in the United States.

The 58<sup>th</sup> APS members are assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Airlift Mobility Squadron, a combined force of aerial porters from throughout the Air Force. MSgt. Steven Winters, 43, is



**Airman  
Jordan**

superintendent of the air terminal operations center (ATOC).

"We handle 29 to 35 missions per evening on a 12-hour night," Sergeant Winters said. "The majority are in-theater – we process munitions, cargo, and passengers." That means that when an aircraft lands, they unload it as quickly as possible. Besides the Westover C-5 that aerial porters handled in the early morning darkness, there are a variety of others: C-130s, C-17s, and 747s. The aerial porters process up to as many as 350 passengers every day.

MSgt. David Steiner is the ATOC director of operations (DO). He said the troop rotation in and out of Iraq is driving the workload. "That's the big thing right now."

During his off-duty time, Sergeant Steiner keeps in touch with his wife, TSgt. Georgianna L. Steiner, who is stateside and a member of the 58<sup>th</sup> back at Westover. They have three daughters.

"This is the hub of the AOR," said SrA. Mark Jordan, an air transportation apprentice, who handles cargo on the jets coming in and out of Al-Udeid.

They live and work in tents in the desert heat. The aerial porters recently were extended. They are scheduled to leave Al-Udeid in June.

Keeping a positive attitude while



**LOADING UP** - TSgt. Marvin P. Dotson, 58th Aerial Port Squadron ramp section, drives a K-loader platform to the back of the C-5 at Al-Udeid Air Base. Sergeant Dotson and 24 other Westover aerial porters are deployed at the desert base in Qatar until June.

going about work so far away from home, no matter the deployment conditions, is key, said TSgt. Marvin M. Dotson, a ramp section worker.

"You've got to hang in there," he said. "There's no other way to do it."

Airman Jordan misses home, his girlfriend, and his family. But he knows he is doing the right thing. "I miss the trees (in Massachusetts)," the Airman said, as he gestured toward the flat desert of Qatar. "I know why I'm here to support the war effort. I volunteered for this. It's what I want to do."

# Base, high school form maintenance academy

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe  
and SrA. Tom Ouellette

With 75 unfilled maintenance air reserve technician positions at Westover and C-5 real-world taskings to meet, 439th Airlift Wing officials are turning to an unconventional method to fill the void. The best part is the solution to the manning problem was right outside the base gate - and also benefits the local community.

Patriot Wing leadership met with Chicopee Comprehensive High School officials March 24 to form the Aerospace Maintenance Academy. The academy is a pilot program designed to fill ART positions and teach students valuable aircraft maintenance skills.

Westover is helping local high school students find careers as ARTs.

ARTs are full-time civil service employees who are also Air Force reservists. There are more than 450 ARTs assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing. Many of these men and women live in the local area, and Westover and the high school leadership want to see more local people remaining in the Pioneer Valley.

"The students at Chicopee Comprehensive High School are eager to learn new skills related to aerospace maintenance and to prove themselves to the ARTs at Westover," said retired CMSgt. Ronald J. Tyson, a former senior recruiter who spearheaded the academy's creation with Kenneth R. Widelo, Chicopee Public Schools Director of Career and Technical Education. Mr. Tyson is serving an internship in educational administration at the school.

Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, attended the meeting between base officials and the high school's teachers.

"They're the wave of the future and we need to tap into that, and we need to help them get started in their careers," the colonel said.

Mr. Tyson brought several ARTs from Westover for a tour of the school's industrial areas. "It's a win-win for the base and the school system. It's really exciting what we're putting together here," he added.

"This program is a perfect opportunity for us to create a long-term relationship that everyone will greatly benefit from," said Basan Nembirkow, superintendent of the



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

**ACADEMY AGREEMENT - Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, talks with Basan Nembirkow, Chicopee Public Schools superintendent, on March 24.**

Chicopee Public Schools.

The academy's agenda this year is to have air maintenance technicians work with school teachers to develop and finalize courses on aerospace maintenance. By next year, a full-time program should be in place for the students.

People with any questions about the academy may call Mr. Tyson at (413) 532-8270.

## Assistant wins exemplary civilian service award

The 439th Airlift Wing recruiters recently recognized their civilian administrator's efforts with an exemplary service award.

"Patricia Simonds is an irreplaceable team member who had a direct effect on our Operating Location (OL) receiving the command's most improved OL in AFRC Award in Fiscal Year 2003," said CMSgt. Ronald J. Tyson, senior recruiter.

The chief said Mrs. Simonds' contributions on the job also helped the OL ex-

ceed the Air Force Reserve Command recruiting goal by 103 percent for FY 2003.

"Mrs. Simonds equipped five additional new recruiting offices ... resulting in high recruiter visibility in the New England Zone for the first time," Chief Tyson said. "Patricia is clearly the best recruiting administrative assistant I have worked with in my 11 years of recruiting."

Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, also praised Mrs. Simonds' efforts in a citation presented to her recently.

"Her job knowledge exceeds any of her peers, and she continually strives for excellence. Her outstanding devotion and accomplishments reflect the highest credit upon herself and the United States Air Force."



**Patricia Simonds**

## Chiefs' Council offers scholarships to enlisted members

The Westover Chiefs' Council is offering its new enlisted scholarship program.

Citing education as vital for personal and/or technical development, the council wanted to show its support by providing three \$500 scholarships to be awarded to the winner.

Reservists assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing from airman basic through senior master sergeant are eligible to apply. They must have proof of a 3.0 grade point average. If an applicant is entering college for the first time, he or she must provide a letter of acceptance from the college.

Applicants need to complete the application form to include

**INTEL continued from Page 3**

mander of Intelligence.

Other intelligence specialists are Maj. Edward J. Miller, CMSgt. Lawrence N. Milliken, MSgt. Elisa M. Overton, TSgt. Joseph R. Russo, SSgt. John S. Rossi, SSgt. Therese E. Finneran, SSgt. Margaret L. Sullivan and SrA. Deborah A. McCaughey. Captain

an essay entitled "My goals as an Air Force enlisted person. The applicant should also include an autobiography and be recommended by a chief in the member's squadron and his or her squadron commander.

Applications must be submitted by Aug. 1 to CMSgt. Joseph J. Cullen, 439th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Application forms are available on the council's web site at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw> or by seeing any Westover chief master sergeant. Recipients will be awarded the scholarship money in September. Questions may be directed to CMSgt. Tammy H. Vezina at Ext. 3428 or CMSgt. Kathy Wood at Ext. 2876.

Holmsten served with the unit until last September.

The Patriot Wing intelligence specialists previously won recognition as best reserve intelligence unit in AMC in 1991, 1993 and 1994.





photo by TSgt. Kim Babin

## Aircraft maintenance frames thanks to family support

**THANKS FOR BEING THERE** - Members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deliver a presentation-quality framed C-5 poster to the Patriot Wing Family Support Center staff on the March A UTA. The poster was a way for AMXS members to thank the family support staff for helping the squadron members and their families during the high operations tempo since 9/11. Maintainers signed the poster in appreciation of the staff's extra



photo by TSgt. Don Talbot

efforts distributing community donations in the hangars, assisting newcomers, counseling families, easing the transitions on and off active duty and more during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. From left are TSgt. Richard Garcia of the center; Capt. Michael A. Travalent, 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS executive officer; TSgt. Scott W. Lau of the center; Roy Green, support center director; and TSgt. Donna J. Gregory of the center.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

**CLOTHING SALES GRAND OPENING** - Base officials celebrate the opening of the new clothing sales store in the base exchange April 2 - the first clothing sales store to be located on an Air Force Reserve Command base. From left are, Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander; Helen Solomon, military clothing sales store manager; Colleen Provencher, assistant BX manager; CMSgt. Sharon L. Lausier and Maj. Robert W. Thompson, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron; and Freeman P. Wiley, 439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group executive officer. Hours for the store are: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and UTA Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## ALCF continued from Page 3

them," he said.

The major's new leadership position comes on the heels of a deployment to Baghdad in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF is a 20-member flight with expertise in air-field operations, communications, administration, aircraft loading, and maintenance.

When deployed, the ALCF functions as a headquarters element, coordinating these core aspects of the flying mission. ALCF members also train 12 sister units in the northeastern United States in how to prepare their people and equipment for airlift.

"We have an outstanding reputation within the Air Force Reserve and AMC (Air Mobility Command)," Major Kreig said. "We are the benchmark. I will take care of my people and will grow them. I couldn't do my job without them. No one individual makes or breaks the unit. They are the unit."

## Patriot Puns

by MSgt. W.C. Pope

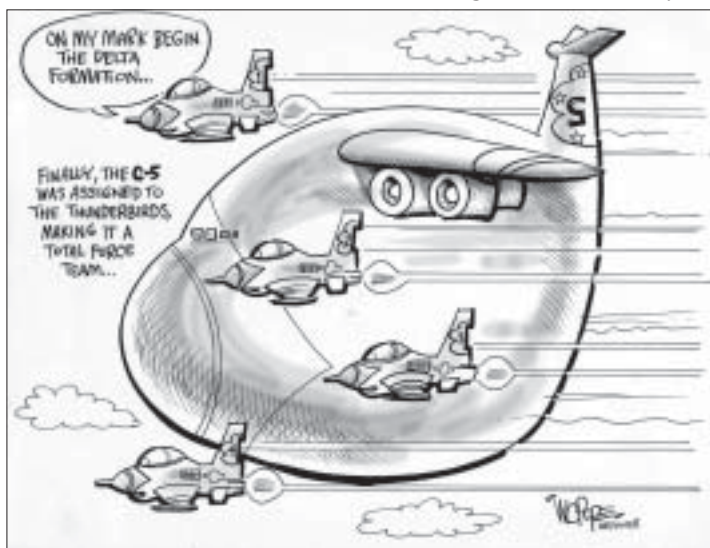




photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

**OFF AND RUNNING** - Commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, and wing staff begin the April 3 "Fit to Fight Invitational" in front of the fitness center during the April A UTA.



photo by SrA. Michael Lanza

**SPRINTING TO FIRST** - Lt. Col. Thomas G. Clark, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron commander, dashes his way to first place. Colonel Clark scored a perfect 100 points with the new fitness test.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

**IN THE STRETCH** - Lt. Col. U. Karl McGregor, 439th Operations Group commander, left, and CMSgt. David F. Carbin, 439th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, pace themselves in the final stretch of the "Fit to Fight Invitational" run.

## Base leaders tackle new fitness standards in stride

by SrA. Michael Lanza

Patriot Wing commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, and wing staff led the charge on the new Air Force fitness test during the first "Fit-to-Fight Invitational" held April 3.

Maj. Patrick S. Ryan, wing fitness manager, said the event was a great success, both in displaying leadership and encouraging Airmen as they prepare for the new fitness standards.

"Everyone participating showed tremendous enthusiasm. They were surprised that it was easier than they thought," he said. Fifty-five of the 63 participants passed the test. The average score was 82.3 points, well within the margin for a "good" fitness level rating, with 14 people scoring 90 or above to earn an "excellent" rating, the major said.

Ratings are based on total points earned in each of the 4 components tested during the fitness test. The total number of points you receive for each component is deter-



photo by SrA. Michael Lanza

**PUSHING IT** - MSgt. Bert Quick, 439th Operations Support Squadron first sergeant, does push-ups as his boss, Lt. Col. Patricia Evans, OSS commander, monitors.

mined by age and gender. The maximum number of points is 100. To pass, Airmen must earn a minimum of 75 points.

Four teams comprised of commanders, chiefs, first sergeants and wing staff competed

for the glory and bragging rights. Commanders placed first with an average of 85.9 points, followed by the chiefs with 83.8 points and the wing staff narrowly trailing with 83.5 points. First sergeants finished fourth with an average of 76 points.

The commanders will receive a trophy acknowledging their first place finish at a future commander's call, Major Ryan said. In addition, Lt. Col. Thomas G. Clark, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron commander; Maj. Farris C. Hill, 439 Maintenance Operations Squadron commander; and CMSgt. Catherine J. Skalecki, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron will be acknowledged for scoring a perfect 100 points.

"This test is not as daunting as it seems," Major Ryan said, citing the competition's encouraging statistics while emphasizing the importance of preparation and perseverance.

Fitness tests are scheduled to begin during the May A UTA and will continue throughout the year.





A1C Leanna E. Aho

## Patriot People

**Name:** Leanna E. Aho  
**Rank:** A1C  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** Ashby, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th Maintenance Operations Squadron  
**Position:** Scheduler  
**Civilian position:** Student/waitress  
**Favorite food:** Tortellini alfredo  
**Years of service:** One  
**Favorite sport:** Volleyball  
**Favorite hobby:** Kayaking  
**Ideal vacation:** Kayaking with family in Jacksonville, Fla.  
**Best way to relax:** Going out with friends  
**Preferred entertainment:** Movies  
**Favorite hero:** John Wayne  
**Favorite music:** Techno  
**Favorite movie:** Goodwill Hunting  
**Favorite aircraft:** F/A-18 Hornet (Blue Angels)  
**Pet peeve:** Lazy people  
**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** Travel in Europe and get a house on the beach

photo by SrA. Michael Lanza

## Patriot Praises

### Reenlistments:

MSgt. Glen D. Gerrans  
 MSgt. David J. Guertin  
 MSgt. Richard R. Michaud  
 MSgt. Lisa A. Spence-Elder  
 MSgt. William J. Sullivan  
 TSgt. Patrick S. Connor  
 TSgt. Michael J. Denekamp  
 TSgt. Aidan F. Evelyn  
 TSgt. David M. Fackelmann  
 TSgt. Daniel L. Ferry  
 TSgt. Shelley L. Foust  
 TSgt. Mark A. Ledkins  
 TSgt. Christopher D. Mazzeo  
 TSgt. Timothy P. Munley  
 TSgt. Stephan A. Rossi  
 TSgt. Steve E. Traugh  
 SSgt. Robert Bergeron Jr.  
 SSgt. Michael Ciaffaglione  
 SSgt. David V. Gainer  
 SSgt. Daniel Muniz  
 SSgt. Christopher C. O'Brian  
 SrA. David J. Christian

### Newly assigned:

Maj. Nathan J. Colodney  
 Maj. Juan Galindez  
 Capt. Michael A. Desantis  
 Capt. Allyn C. Taylor IV  
 1st Lt. Patricia A. Blake  
 2nd Lt. Michael G. Lambert  
 2nd Lt. Matthew D. Podowka  
 CMSgt. Alan P. Rogers  
 MSgt. Olivia K. Eason  
 TSgt. John C. Assimotos  
 TSgt. Valerie S. Montano  
 TSgt. Edward Salazar  
 SSgt. Robert D. Bergeron Jr.  
 SSgt. Kimberly Bragg  
 SSgt. Kara B. Davis  
 SSgt. Wanda Y. Dejesus  
 SSgt. George W. Durant Jr.  
 SSgt. Karen M. Hutchinson

SSgt. Stephen M. Kane  
 SSgt. Stephen E. McDonald  
 SSgt. Eric G. Miller  
 SSgt. Stacy J. Morgan  
 SSgt. Daniel Muniz  
 SSgt. Stephen A. Salvini Jr.  
 SSgt. Andrew D. Williams  
 SrA. Josafa Abreu  
 SrA. Krzyztof J. Baskiewicz  
 SrA. Kingsley R. Brady  
 SrA. Francis M. Donadio Jr.  
 SrA. Ryan E. Dunbar  
 SrA. Todd Fitch  
 SrA. Christopher Hernandez  
 SrA. Michael J. Jaczyk  
 SrA. Eileen M. Masztalics  
 SrA. Alexis C. McCusker  
 SrA. Jason J. McWilliams  
 SrA. Casey S. Roberts  
 SrA. Aaron M. Sifuentes  
 SrA. Jennifer L. Verbeck  
 A1C David L. Allison  
 A1C Aleksey P. Baraban  
 A1C Tawny L. Boulanger  
 A1C Richard S. Bradley  
 A1C Amanda R. Cohn  
 A1C Benjamin S. Demott  
 A1C Dana Granteed  
 A1C Erwin O. Greene  
 A1C Melissa A. Griffin  
 A1C Tanya L. Herron  
 A1C David J. Ivery  
 A1C Lisa M. Libonati  
 A1C Jared A. Marsh  
 A1C Sabrina S. Martin  
 A1C Michael C. Miller  
 A1C Akeilee G. Murchison  
 A1C Arinze C. Obuekwe  
 A1C Dilenes Ortiz  
 A1C Christine A. Paige  
 A1C Eric Pelchat  
 A1C Jonnathan R. Portillo  
 A1C Arealva  
 A1C Eric K. Posson  
 A1C Heather A. Provost

### Retired:

Lt. Col. Joseph M. Mastrangelo  
 Maj. Edmund P. Gaines III  
 Capt. Claire L. Gaudreau  
 CMSgt. Robert B. Fetherston  
 SMSgt. John E. Kida  
 SMSgt. Daniel J. Major  
 SMSgt. Richard Ricci  
 SMSgt. William J. Roberts

MSgt. Elaine A. Evers  
 MSgt. Robert W. Fredette Jr.  
 MSgt. Michael J. Healy  
 MSgt. Deborah S. Housley  
 MSgt. Robert E. Smith  
 TSgt. Judith A. Clark  
 TSgt. Norman A. Faucher  
 TSgt. Stephen D. Stravos Jr.  
 TSgt. Frederick L. Trickett  
 SSgt. David S. Koretsky

## Awards and Decorations

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Michael J. Marten\*\*  
 Lt. Col. Donald L. Ryan \*\*  
 Lt. Col. Michael A. Vinskey\*  
 Capt. Richard A. Scheller  
 CMSgt. Robert B. Fetherston\*  
 SMSgt. Karen S. Scott \*  
 MSgt. Thomas Brown  
 MSgt. David P. Cambio  
 MSgt. Airton D. Sapaixao  
 MSgt. Wesley A. Ormerod  
 MSgt. Robert W. Fredette Jr.  
 MSgt. David E. Holding  
 SMSgt. Richard N. Labrecque\*  
 TSgt. Christopher J. McKee  
 TSgt. Ronald Mink

### Air Medal

Maj. Gerald P. Eves  
 (4,5,& 6 device)

### Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt. Joseph R. Freitas  
 Capt. David R. Hodgkinson  
 Capt. David E. Hutchinson\*  
 TSgt. Steven G. Peterson

### Joint Service Achievement Medal

SrA. Christopher M. Nopper

### Air Force Achievement Medal

SrA. Kimberly L. Kopp

\*First oak leaf cluster

\*\*Second oak leaf cluster

# June 24 - Employer Appreciation Day

Employer Appreciation Day has been scheduled for June 24.

To have invitations sent to their bosses, reservists should fill out the application form below and return it to the Public Affairs office located in wing headquarters. A letter will then be sent from Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, to each employer.

This year's Employer Appreciation

Day will get started at 9 a.m. at the Westover Club where employers will be treated to coffee and refreshments.

Employers will be bussed to the flight line at approximately 10:30 a.m. where they will board a unit C-5 for an orientation flight.

Reservists who wish to join their employers for lunch after the flight must pay in advance. The price will be

announced in a *Patriot* edition later this spring.

Each reservist will be allowed to invite just one supervisor. Only those reservists assigned to the aircrew will be allowed to board the C-5 for the orientation flight.

Further information is available at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1850 or by calling (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

Reservist's name, rank and unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's company name/address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch for employer: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch for reservist: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103  
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

**PATRIOT**

[www.afrc.af.mil/439aw](http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw)

May UTA schedule  
A UTA May 1-2  
B UTA May 15-16



439th AW/PA  
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East Wing, Suite 103  
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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